

Amendment to Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for handling forms, comprising the steps of:
receiving a form from a form publisher comprising one or more data submission fields configured to receive user input;

automatically processing the form to identify the data submission fields;

automatically correlating each data field to a database field type supported by a database application;

automatically creating one or more database tables or other database structures in the database application corresponding to the form, the structure comprising a storage element corresponding to each data submission field;

automatically publishing the form to receive form submissions comprising data entries into the data submission fields;

receiving one or more form submissions; and

entering the data entries of the form submissions into the corresponding storage elements of the database.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a report file associated with the form, the report file comprising report elements associated with the storage elements of the database;

computing the report elements from the data entries associated with the storage elements of the database;

rendering the report; and

delivering the report to a specified location.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the form comprises the step of uploading the form from a remote form publisher.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the form comprises the step of:

launching a forms wizard uploading; and

receiving user commands to the forms wizard to create the form.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of receiving the report comprises the step of uploading the report from a remote form publisher.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of receiving the report comprises the step of:

launching a reports wizard uploading; and

receiving user commands to the forms wizard to create the report.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of processing the form to identify the data submission fields comprises the steps of:

parsing the form to identify the data submission fields;

determining a field type associated with each data submission field; and

determining a name associated with each data submission field.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of correlating each data field to a database field type supported by a database application comprises the steps of:

determining a field type associated with each data submission field;

looking up a selected database field type corresponding to each data submission field; and

correlating each data submission field with its corresponding selected database field type.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of correlating each data field to a database field type supported by a database application comprises the steps of:

determining a field type associated with each data submission field;

looking up a default database field type and a list of database field type options corresponding to each data submission field;

prompting the form published to enter a selected database field type from the list of database field type options for each data submission field; and

correlating each data submission field with its corresponding selected database field type.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a report file associated with the form, the report file comprising report elements associated with the storage elements of the database structure;

receiving a service definition comprising instructions for producing and delivering reports based on the report file;

determining from the instructions that a report should be generated;

computing the report elements from the data entries associated with the storage elements of the database structure;

rendering the report; and

delivering the report to a specified location.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

forwarding the form submissions to the form publisher for review; and

receiving approval of the form submissions prior to entering the data entries of the form submissions into the corresponding storage elements of the database structure.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving form logic defining conditions associated with the receipt of form submissions using the form;
saving the form logic in association with the database structure corresponding to the form; and
applying the form logic when receiving form submissions using the form.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the form logic comprises:
conditions defining valid data entries for individual data submission fields; and
conditions defining a valid form submission based on a combination of data entries for several data submission fields.

14. (Original) A computer storage medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

15. (Original) A computer-controlled apparatus configured to perform the method of claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for handling forms, comprising the steps of:
receiving a form from a form publisher comprising one or more data submission fields configured to receive user input;

automatically processing the form to identify the data submission fields;

automatically correlating each data field to a database field type supported by a database application by determining a field type associated with each data submission field, looking up a default database field type and a list of database field type options corresponding to each data submission field, prompting the form published to enter a selected database field type from the list of database field type options for each data submission field, and correlating each data submission field with its corresponding selected database field type;

automatically creating a database structure in the database application corresponding to the form, the schema comprising a storage element corresponding to each data submission field;

automatically publishing the form to receive form submissions comprising data entries into the data submission fields;

receiving one or more form submissions;

entering the data entries of the form submissions into the corresponding storage elements of the database;

receiving a report file associated with the form, the report file comprising report elements associated with the storage elements of the database table;

receiving a service definition comprising instructions for producing and delivering reports based on the report file;

determining from the instructions that a report should be generated;

computing the report elements from the data entries associated with the storage elements of the database;

rendering the report; and

delivering the report to a specified location.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:
forwarding the form submissions to the form publisher for review; and
receiving approval of the form submissions prior to entering the data entries of
the form submissions into the corresponding storage elements of the database.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:
receiving form logic defining conditions associated with the receipt of form
submissions using the form;
saving the form logic in association with the database structure corresponding to
the form; and
applying the form logic when receiving form submissions using the form.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the form logic comprises:
conditions defining valid data entries for individual data submission fields; and
conditions defining a valid form submission based on a combination of data
entries for several data submission fields.

20. (Original) A computer storage medium storing computer-executable
instructions for performing the method of claim 16.

21. (Original) A computer-controlled apparatus configured to perform the method
of claim 16.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions comprising:

a document handler operable for receiving forms and associated report files, each form comprising one or more data submission fields configured to receive user input, and each report file comprising report elements associated with the data submission fields of a corresponding form;

a forms database operable for storing a plurality of forms received through the document handler;

a reports database operable for storing a plurality of reports received through the document handler;

a table loader operable for automatically creating a database structure corresponding to each form, each database structure comprising a storage element corresponding to each data submission field in a corresponding form;

a forms manager operable for receiving one or more form submissions associated with each form and entering data entries received through each form submission into the corresponding database table; and

the forms manager further operable for receiving a service definition associated with each form, and for automatically producing and delivering reports based on the report file and database table corresponding to each form in accordance with instructions contained in a corresponding service definition.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, further comprising: an interface system operable for receiving service definitions from one or more user communication devices selected from the group ~~comprising~~ including:

a landline telephone;

a wireless telephone;

a computer; and

a digital broadband device.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the document handler is operable for processing documents in a format selected from the group comprising including:

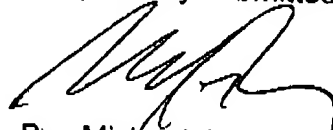
- an HTML document;
- a PDF document;
- an XML document; and
- a word processing document.

25. (Original) A computer-controlled apparatus comprising the computer storage medium of claim 22.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the preceding amendment is completely responsive to the Office Communication of March 14, 2005, and that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this matter, he may contact me at (404) 497-7400.

Respectfully submitted,



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